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Exclusive: 'Pfizer Gave Me Guillain-Barré Syndrome'

Emily Edwards, a 72-year-old grandmother and active member of her Texas community, spent over a year in the hospital with complications from Guillain-Barré syndrome after getting the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Now pain and restricted mobility are "pretty much a forever deal" for her. But she hopes her story can help others.

By Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

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Emily Edwards lived an active, happy and "normal everyday life" for 72 years, raising children and grandchildren and attending events in her Texas community.

She and her husband both became ill with COVID-19 early in the pandemic. Edwards' case was mild, but her husband was hospitalized for nearly a week.

"They didn't give him a very good chance of surviving," Edwards told The Defender in an interview, "but he did."

When the COVID-19 vaccine became available for people over 65, they rushed to get it.

"Being that sick or seeing someone that sick scares you to death," she said. "And they were saying, 'If you go get this vaccine, then you won't ever have a chance of getting COVID again.'"

Edwards got her first Pfizer shot on April 11, 2021, and her second on May 2, 2021.

Within a few weeks, "strange things started to happen," she said.

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Edwards told The Defender:

> "My hearing was not good, and my balance was off. My taste buds were crazy because everything I put in my mouth, even water tasted like I was trying to chew aluminum foil. It was this horrible metal taste. And then the imbalance became really difficult to handle."

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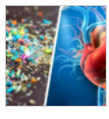
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An ear, nose and throat doctor diagnosed Edwards with vertigo and treated her. When her symptoms failed to resolve, he sent her to an audiologist. That was frustrating, she said, because it was clear they had no idea what was causing her symptoms.

Then one night, as she was walking through the house, she said, "My legs just gave out from beneath me. I just went down like a rock. No notice, no warning, nothing."

They went to the emergency room "out of desperation." After four days, unable to determine the cause of her symptoms, the doctors sent her home. But a few nights later, she was back in a different hospital, where she underwent four more days of testing — again with no diagnosis.

At that point, Edwards was wheelchair-bound, couldn't hear the conversations going on around her and had nearly lost her vision.

One of the nurses gave her the name of a neurologist who she said was extremely well-versed in unusual neurological diseases. "If he sees you, you might be able to get some answers, and it would be a gift," the nurse told Edwards.

That neurologist immediately suspected Edwards had Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare neurological disorder where the immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system.

He said there had been some cases linked to the COVID-19 vaccine and he wanted to hospitalize her and test her.

Tests revealed Edwards suffered from a rare sub-variant of the disease, Miller Fisher syndrome, that also affects vision, hearing and coordination.

"And from then on," she said, "it was rough."

Edwards spent more than six months moving between a rehab facility and a hospital. Her "normal, active, everyday" life became a thing of the past. She was too sick to be at her mother's bedside when she passed away.

Intravenous immunoglobulin treatments — plasma infusions often used to treat autoimmune disorders — didn't help. Edwards' neurologist reluctantly offered her an intervention called plasmapheresis, which consists of removing blood and plasma from the body, treating and returning it.

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It could be risky, Edwards said, because she already had a serious heart condition. Still, she insisted on the procedure because she was desperate for some relief.

"I told him, 'I'll sign any piece of paper you have that exonerates you, blameless, for having to do this,'" she said.

Afterward, she could stand for the first time and walk with the help of a walker, and even pack her own things to move from the hospital to the rehab. "That was a step forward," she said, "so I knew I could improve somewhat."

"And from then on, it became my battle or my determination to overcome this as much as possible. And I have fought every step of the way."

But that wasn't the end of the serious issues.

Edwards was home for about a month — after spending nearly a year in the hospital — when her legs suddenly gave out while she was standing at her stove. She collapsed and broke her hip.

"Oh God. Back to the hospital," she said, "I had my hip replaced. Back to the rehab center for another month-and-a-half and home."

She finally started to relax into her "new normal" at home, but then had another fall and hit her head hard. By the evening, her cognitive symptoms were so

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severe she couldn't recognize her family.

"The next day they did brain surgery on me because they said I had a brain bleed and really was not doing well at all," she said. "They gave me a 5% chance of survival."

"I survived that and came out and actually had my memory and was able to talk," said Edwards, but sometimes she couldn't find the words to express her thoughts. She had to learn to swallow and go through speech and physical therapy.

The disease 'eats away at your nerves'

Today, Edwards continues to face many challenges, including severe pain.

"I have what feels like great big bands, rubber bands going around my legs, up my legs," she said. "It's just the weirdest sensation. And then my nerve endings that constantly put out sparks. It's like an electrical cord that you take the plastic wrap off or the rubber wrap off of the cord, and all you have is exposed wires."

The disease "eats away at your nerves" she said, "so all you have is raw nerves, like raw electrical outlet things. And so it shoots down your body like electricity, and it feels like electricity."

The bouts of pain occur randomly and are so intense, she said. "I cannot describe it. It is shocking, pardon the pun."

Pausing to find her words, random bouts of extreme pain and difficulty walking are the "new normal" for Edwards. "That's pretty much a forever deal," she said.

But some of the biggest challenges, she said, are how life has changed. Her husband has taken on the role of primary caretaker, and daily activities are limited.

Recently, she went to her grandson's graduation, but had to be seated far away and was unable to clearly see him receiving his diploma because her vision has been damaged by the Guillain-Barré.

"It's one small example," she said, "of all kinds of ramifications, all kinds of things that I miss out on every day."

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'Look at me and decide'

Edwards told The Defender she was sharing her story because she hopes it can be a warning to others considering getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

She said she sees the news warning of a new variant, and, "It makes me mad to see the commercials now that you need to get the next booster or people should wear masks again."

To people considering more COVID-19 vaccines, or any vaccines where this is a possible side effect, such as the shingles vaccine, Edwards says, "Look at me and decide, because it's not a good idea. Please don't swallow that [idea], it's not a good one."

"To this day, it's devastating," she said, "And I'm so angry."

Edwards and her husband are particularly angry, she said, because they "never should have gotten a vaccine in the first place." They both had COVID-19 and they were still advised to be vaccinated.

It was only later that "small snippets of information started to leak that if you've had COVID, you have developed natural immunity."

For her, she said, "There's no recourse other than to help other people find a way out of this." Despite the total transformation of her life, Edwards also hopes her story can be a message to other people suffering injuries.

She said has learned how important it is to be an advocate for yourself in negotiating the healthcare system. "There's just no way out of this without being your own best friend through the whole thing and just pressing for answers or that kind of thing."

"If I hadn't thought that I might find some answers and get better, I think I would've probably given up," she added.

Edwards also warned people suffering from symptoms of Guillain-Barré to get to a doctor quickly. Early diagnosis is key to more effective treatment. The longer the disease is embedded in the body, the more damage it does, she said.

Vaccine-injured people should "press the docs to think outside the box and do their research. There are answers and treatments, but individuals must be their own advocates in a strong, gracious way. And do it sooner rather than later!!"

Edwards and her husband talked with Children's Health Defense's (CHD) Polly Tommey, program manager for CHD.TV. Polly is on CHD's nationwide "Vax-Unvax" bus tour gathering stories from people injured by vaccines.

Click here to learn more, see the bus schedule and share your story.

Watch the #CHDBUS interview:

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Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 10 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's from the University of Texas at Austin.

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Not holding my breath.

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ksmZ2Z2Z

5 days ago

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, if you're reading the comments please know that I will share this, your story, with my parents who are already discussing getting their fourth booster. They refuse to listen to me, but perhaps by miracle they will listen to you. Thank you for sharing this important message. God bless.

3 0 Reply • Share ›

L

LinUK

5 days ago

I wish the lady well, it sounds like she's at least been given some medical help with all her injuries.
Here in England it would be highly unlikely that the NHS would go to those lengths to treat someone of her age.

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kathy

5 days ago

It's important to connect with like-minded individuals.

Focus on America is hosting the event Patriots Unite & Push on 17 September in Huntsville, AL. The keynote speaker is James O'Keefe (Project Veritas founder). Military whistleblowers LtCol Theresa Long (has spoken out about military vax injuries) and Lt Bashaw (was the first Army officer court-martialed for speaking out and going against covid protocols) are guest speakers. Other speakers include Debbie Bernal (Pfizer whistleblower), Steve Friend (FBI whistleblower), embalmer Richard Hirschman (from Died Suddenly documentary), OB/GYN Dr. James Thorp, Cathy O'Brien (MK Ultra mind control survivor) plus many more. Click links below for more info.

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Mel R → kathy

4 days ago

That 9/17 event has one of the most impressive lineups since lockdown/Event201/plandemic began. Hope there is an event like this on the west coast, a lot of sheeple here but more are slowly becoming aware of the Scandal of the Century.

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MultiChubby1

2 days ago

"It was only later that "small snippets of information started to leak that if you've had COVID, you have developed natural immunity." How far we have come from this basic fact of biology. I remember in the late 1970's being told about the flu shot. I thought "That's the stupidest thing I have ever heard. Everyone knows you can't can't vaccinate against the flu. Right?"

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AnotherLover

4 days ago

Then one night, as she was walking through the house, she said, "My legs just gave out from beneath me. I just went down like a rock. No notice, no warning, nothing."

Bob Saget probably died to something like this.

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